

**Education Finance and Effectiveness Committee  
Minutes  
October 14, 2009 Room 11 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Present: Jeff Francis; Sen. Robert Hartwell; Mo Germain; Bill Mathis; Carolyn Schwalbe; Rep. Martha Heath; Commissioner Armando Vilaseca; Rep. Janet Ancel; June Rosenberg; Sen. Mark McDonald; Bob Rusten; Sen. Rick Hube  
Absent: Sen. Robert Starr; Rep. Joanne Donovan; Sen. Susan Bartlett

10 a.m. Commissioner Armando Vilaseca convened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

10:20 a.m. Dr. David Silvernail, Center for Education Policy, Applied Research and Evaluation – University of Southern Maine, spoke to the Committee on school spending, special education spending and district reorganization in Maine. (Power Point) Members of the Committee asked several questions.

12:35 p.m. Broke for lunch

1:15 p.m. Public Comment Forum. Thirteen members of the public signed up to speak before the committee. They presented their comments.

1. Winton Goodrich, Vermont School Boards Association (VSBA)
2. Rep. Peter Peltz, Woodbury
3. Tom deBalsi, Windsor Central SU, Vermont Council of Special Education Administrators (VCSEA)
4. Erin Maguire, Chittenden Central SU, VCSEA
5. Tom O'Brian, Addison Northwest SU
6. Brent Kay, Orleans South SU
7. Rhetta Dunlap, Vermont Ed Watch
8. Marty Strange, Rural School and Community Trust
9. Johannah Harpster, Windam Central SU
10. Sean-Marie Oller, Mount Anthony Union School Board
11. Frank Rutger, Windham Central SU
12. Gene Miller, U46 (Essex) Board
13. Bob Kern, North Country SU

2:45 p.m. Committee discussion on public comment, future agenda and charge of the committee.

Recommendation for next meeting: Focus on four achievable goals (SU efficiencies, special education, ratios, teacher retirement) that could be shared with the Legislature and could positively impact students while slowing or containing the cost.

Future agenda recommendations – how to share good ideas; VSBA actual approach presentation; identify efficiencies; recommendation to Governor re: Teacher Retirement shift; identify the large and small problems; staffing; include implementation timeframe; principles (ex: don't increase reliance on property tax, etc)

3:30 p.m. Brad James presented the group with information on Small Schools grants, answering the question of what would happen to school districts if the small school grant was removed.

3:43 p.m. Donna Russo-Savage of Legislative Council spoke to the group about proportional representation for school boards.

Next meeting on November 5 in the Pavilion Building 4<sup>th</sup> Floor. Last meeting date:  
December 9 at 9:30 a.m.

3:50 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

- Minutes prepared by Jill Remick, Communications Director,  
Vermont Department of  
Education